

What is Elder Abuse?

There are various categories of elder abuse:

- ♦ Physical
- ♦ Emotional and/or verbal
- ♦ Sexual
- ♦ Neglect and self-neglect
- ♦ Financial exploitation

Signs of elder abuse include, but are not limited to: bruising, broken bones, eye injuries, problems sleeping, loss of interest in activities, anxiousness, fear, shame, isolation, malnutrition, misuse of medication, forged checks, or missing money.

An Elder is defined under Massachusetts Law as a person of age 60 or older.

What is Abuse of Persons with Disabilities?

There are different categories of abuse of persons with disabilities:

- ♦ Physical
- ♦ Emotional and/or verbal
- ♦ Sexual
- ♦ Neglect
- ♦ Death

Signs of abuse of persons with disabilities include, but are not limited to: bruising, bone fractures, burns, bite marks, poor hygiene, lack of needed aides (eyeglasses, walker, hearing aid, etc.), difficulty walking/sitting, or unusual changes in behavior.

If you suspect that a person with a disability has been the victim of abuse or neglect by their caregiver(s), please call the DPPC Hotline at 1-800-426-9009.

You Are Not Alone!

"This project was supported by Grant No. 2006-WE-BX0024, awarded by the Violence Against Women Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official policies of the U.S. Department of Justice."

Quick Reference to some other local resources

Police

Abington Police.....	781-878-3232
Bridgewater Police.....	508-697-6118
Brockton Police.....	508-941-0200
East Bridgewater Police.....	508-378-7223
West Bridgewater Police.....	508-586-2525
Whitman Police.....	781-447-7666
Emergency.....	911

Court Services

Brockton District Court.....	508-587-8000
Brockton Probate Court.....	508-897-5400
Massachusetts Parole/Victim Services.....	508-650-4500

Elder / Disabled Services

Abington Council on Aging.....	781-982-2145
Bridgewater Elder Affairs.....	508-697-0929
Brockton Council on Aging.....	508-580-7811
East Bridgewater Council on Aging.....	508-378-1610
West Bridgewater Council on Aging.....	508-894-1262
Whitman Council on Aging.....	781-447-7619

Old Colony Elder Services	508-584-1561
Disabled Persons Protection Commission	
24 hr hotline.....	800-426-9009

Family Continuity Programs

Senior Response Program.....	800-469-9888
Massachusetts Rehabilitation.....	800-245-6543
Self Help Inc.	
Fuel Assistance Program.....	508-588-5440

Local Hospitals / Healthcare Centers

Brockton Hospital.....	508-941-7000
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center...	508-559-6699
Caritas Good Samaritan Hospital.....	508-427-3000
South Shore Hospital.....	781-340-8000
South Shore Hospital	
Home Care Division.....	781-849-1710
VA Boston Healthcare System.....	800-865-3384

Hotlines

Elder Abuse 24 hr Hotline.....	800-922-2275
SafeLink	
24 hr Hotline-covers all of MA....	877-785-2020
National Domestic Violence Hotline	
24 hr Hotline.....	800-799-7233
National Sexual Assault Hotline	
24 hr Hotline.....	800-656-HOPE
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A Local Resource Guide To Preventing and Reporting Elder Abuse & Abuse of Persons with Disabilities



HOPE HELP SUPPORT

Prepared for you by
participating members of the
Brockton Area Roundtable
on Domestic Violence and
Sexual Assault

Resources

Brockton Area Multi Services Inc.

BAMSI is a human services organization with programs that comprise a network of services in some of the following areas: Community Resources, Developmental Disability Services, Elderly Services and Outpatient Mental Health Services.

(508) 580-8700

Brockton Family & Community Resources

BF&CR provides free, confidential services to victims of family violence, including elders and individuals with disabilities being abused by family members/caretakers. Services include: crisis intervention, safety planning, case management, group, and counseling support through a licensed mental health clinic. Services can be provided in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, and American Sign Language.

(508) 583-6498

(508) 583-6498 TTY

Department of Transitional Assistance

DTA has Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children. EAEDC provides cash benefits to individuals who are eligible under DTA guidelines. To find out if you are eligible contact your local DTA office.

Brockton office (508) 895-7163
Plymouth office (508) 884-5354

Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC)

The DPPC is an independent state agency created to protect adults with mental and physical disabilities, between the ages of 18 and 59, from abuse or neglect by their caregiver (s) whether in a private, family or state care setting.

In cases of suspected abuse or neglect of a person with mental or physical disabilities, the DPPC:

- Receives, screens, and refers reports of suspected abuse, neglect for investigation.
- Conducts and oversees investigations conducted on DPPC's behalf by other state agencies: Dept. of Mental Retardation, Dept. of Mental Health and the MA Rehab Commission.

- Provides free training on recognizing and reporting abuse of persons with disabilities.
- Cases involving criminal activity are referred by the DPPC's State Police Unit to the DA's Office and local police for investigation.

**24 hr hotline
Office**

**800-426-9009 V/TTY
617-727-6465 V/TTY**

Old Colony Elder Services

OCES is a private non-profit corporation, designated as an Aging Services Access Point. OCES provides a wide variety of services including, but not limited to, information & referral, home care services, caregiver support, home delivered meals, protective services, and case management. The goal of these supportive services is to enable the elder to remain independent in the community. OCES services many area towns including: Abington, Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, and Whitman.

(508) 584-1561

Plymouth District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for the enhanced prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault offenders, including those who victimize the elderly or persons with disabilities. There is an Assistant District Attorney and Victim Witness Advocate specifically assigned to these cases. They will be able to explain the criminal process to you, explain the status of the case, assist you with a victim witness impact statement, and provide you with resources. The District Attorney's Office partners with the Sheriff's Dept., local Councils on Aging, police & fire departments to form what is known as TRIAD. The goal of TRIAD is to increase senior safety and reduce senior victimization.

Main Office (508) 584-8120
Elder/Disabled Advocate (508) 894-6317

Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Dept. is a partner in TRIAD, along with the District Attorney's Office, local Councils on Aging, police & fire departments. The goal of TRIAD is to increase senior safety and reduce senior victimization. The Sheriff's Dept. also provides a free computerized telephone reassurance program known as "Are You Okay?" The Sheriff's Dept. also has a Victim Services Unit to assist you if you are the victim of a crime and the offender becomes incarcerated.

(508) 830-6387 or (508) 830-6200

SAFEPLAN

SAFEPLAN provides specially trained and certified advocates to offer court advocacy and supportive services to victims who are seeking intervention and protection through the court system. The advocates are able to assist elder and disabled persons involved in any abusive relationship assuming they meet the criteria for receiving a 209A.

**Brockton District & Probate Courts
SAFEPLAN Advocates (508) 584-2966**

Womansplace Crisis Center

Womansplace is a non-profit organization that provides services to survivors of rape, child sexual assault, and domestic violence. They offer a wide range of services which include: an older woman domestic violence program, individual and group counseling, medical advocacy, emergency shelter, multi-cultural services (Haitian Creole, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole & Portuguese) and community education programs

24 hr domestic violence hotline (508) 588-2041
24 hr sexual assault hotline (508) 588-8255

Office (508) 588-2045 (508) 894-2869 TTY

Your Local Council On Aging

Local COAs and Senior Centers serve older and disabled persons and their caregivers, who are in need of services and referrals. Some also provide services to people of any age, who are in need. Programs that enhance dignity, support independence and encourage general wellness are developed, coordinated and promoted to meet the needs of these individuals. Some programs offered include; transportation, nutrition, exercise, legal, financial, and homecare information; insurance counseling, preparation of applications for fuel assistance and other government programs, group support, and social and educational opportunities.

